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Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
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Draft report

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Chapter I
Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention

B. Matters brought to the attention of the Council

Recommendations of the Permanent Forum

Half-day discussion on the Pacific region

1. The Pacific islands[1] are home to a diverse range of indigenous peoples, speaking 19 per cent of the world's estimated 5,000 languages. Indigenous peoples in the Pacific are still linked to their communal lands, belief systems, spirituality and customary laws, which form the basis of their social, economic and political systems. Owing to the diversity of Pacific countries and territories, there are significant variations in the social, political and economic situation of indigenous peoples in the region.

2. The small island developing States of the Pacific face specific environmental, social and economic challenges that have a significant impact on indigenous peoples in the exercise of their human rights. A distinctive feature of the Pacific region is that indigenous peoples make up the majority of the population in most Pacific island countries. At the same time, in some countries in the region, colonial

[1] The Pacific islands referred to here comprise the 16 States members of the Pacific Islands Forum (Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Nauru, New Zealand (including Tokelau), Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu), the three French territories (French Polynesia, New Caledonia and Wallis and Futuna) the territories of the United States of America (American Samoa, Guam and Northern Mariana Islands), Timor-Leste, the province of West Papua, Indonesia, the islands of Hawaii, United States, and the island of Rapa Nui, Chile.

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settlements and immigration have reduced indigenous populations to a minority in their own lands.

3. Reiterating the recommendation made at its seventh session, the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues recommends that the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees focus on the vulnerability of indigenous peoples in the Pacific region, particularly in view of the effects of climate change (see E/2008/43-E/C.19/2008/13, chap. I, sect. B, para. 59).

4. Consistent with article 10 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the Permanent Forum calls upon Member States and human rights institutions to consider examining, in conjunction with the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples and other mandate holders, the forced relocation of indigenous communities.